

**Naturopathic Medicine Committee
Proposed Regulations Regarding Continuing Education**

Amend Division 40 of Title 16, California Code of Regulations, as follows:

Amend section 4222, subd. (d)(2):

- **Modify first sentence** to add “... as provided for in article 4.5.”
- **Delete second sentence** (“The licensee shall attach documentation to the renewal application verifying the successful completion of the required continuing education.”)

Add Article 4.5, Continuing Education, including the following sections:

4229. Continuing Education

(a) In order to renew his or her license in an active status, each licensee shall declare under penalty of perjury that he or she has or has complied with the continuing education requirements of section 3635 of the Code and this article.

(b) A license shall not be renewed in an active status unless the licensee completes the required number of hours of continuing education or the Committee grants a waiver pursuant to Section 4229.1. Where a licensee indicates that he or she has not completed the required continuing education hours but has fulfilled all other renewal requirements, and the Committee has not granted a waiver, the Committee may renew the license in inactive status.

(b) In addition to the provisions of section 3635 of the Code, the following provisions apply to determine whether continuing education credit will be granted for an activity:

(1) As used in section 3635(a)(1) of the Code, “pharmacotherapeutics” means the study of the use of drugs in the treatment of disease.

(2) Faculty at an approved naturopathic medical school as defined in Section 3623 of the Code may receive one hour of continuing education for each classroom hour completed as an instructor, up to a maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education per year, regardless of how many hours or courses are taught.

(3) Any licensee who participates in the development of an occupational analysis, an examination development session, item review session or a passing score workshop, may receive one (1) hour of continuing education for every two (2) hours of participation. This section pertains to examinations developed for the Committee and for the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX) or an equivalent approved by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners.

(4) Credit will not be given toward approved continuing education coursework which is substantially similar to coursework which was successfully completed within the

preceding three (3) years and used to meet the continuing education requirements of this article and Section 3635 of the Code.

(c) Each licensee shall retain records of all continuing education for which he or she has claimed credit for a minimum of four (4) years. For courses taken, the retained records must indicate the provider's name, title of the course or program, date(s) and location of course, and number of continuing education hours awarded. For continuing education credit accumulated in any other manner, the retained records must show evidence of the nature, date(s), duration, and scope of the activity qualifying for credit.

(d) A naturopathic doctor whose license has been expired for more than one renewal cycle shall complete the required hours of continuing education for one renewal cycle before such license may be restored. This provision is in addition to any other requirements that must be fulfilled.

(e) This section shall not apply to a naturopathic doctor who is renewing for the first time.

4229.1. Waiver of Requirement

(a) The Committee may, in its discretion, exempt from the continuing education requirements, any naturopathic doctor who for reasons of health, military service, or undue hardship cannot meet those requirements. Requests for waivers shall be submitted to the Committee for its consideration no later than at the time the renewal application is filed.

(b) Any naturopathic doctor whose request for a waiver is denied by the Committee shall be ineligible for active renewal unless he or she complies with the continuing education requirements of the Code and this article.

4229.2. Audit and Sanctions for Noncompliance

(a) The Committee may audit a random sample of licensees who have reported compliance with the continuing education requirement.

(b) Any licensee selected for audit shall provide records of continuing education credit claimed to qualify for renewal. Failure to provide the records required by section 4229(c) of this article may result in a finding that the continuing education requirement was not fulfilled.

(c) In addition to any enforcement action, any naturopathic doctor who does not complete the required number of continuing education hours shall be ineligible for the renewal of his or her license to practice naturopathic medicine in an active status until such time as the deficient hours of continuing education are documented to the Committee.

(d) It shall constitute unprofessional conduct for any licensee to misrepresent his or her compliance with the provisions of the Code or this article.

